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A radio talk by Dr. W. H. Larriner, Bureau of Entomology, delivered Wednesday, March 9, 1932, in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 47 associate NBC radio stations.

When anyone asks me to predict and guarantee the occurrence or absence of cereal and forage crop insect outbreaks, I have one standard reply. This reply is "Get me a guaranteed forecast of the weather for the next four or five months, and I may be able to give you something reliable on insect outbreaks."

I can't get that sort of a weather forecast. So I have to tell all questioners, what I'll tell you today -- the facts we now know about the presence of overwintering cereal and forage crop insects. I'll also name for you the Department publications that give information on control of the different insects.

Now for the facts about the different insects. Of course, grasshoppers are causing the most anxiety, especially in the North Plains section. You may recall that last year at this time I pointed out in a radio talk that grasshopper eggs were present in threatening numbers in the Northwest. The outbreak came, with a vengeance.

Last fall, the various States concerned and our Bureau made a survey. It showed lots of grasshoppers and eggs in northwestern Minnesota, northeastern North Dakota, south-central South Dakota, northeastern Nebraska, Western Iowa, eastern Colorado, northeastern Wyoming, and eastern Montana.

If the weather is cold and wet shortly after the eggs hatch the young hoppers may not be so numerous. But the area infested is large. The eggs are abundant. And the eggs will hatch over a period of from four to six weeks. So there is almost bound to be trouble from grasshoppers in some part of the infested area and even if the weather works against the hoppers.

Federal and State forces are arranging to cooperate with farmers in putting on a large-scale grasshopper control campaign. When plans develop further there will be more to say on this campaign.

A new bulletin on "How to Control Grasshoppers in Cereal and Forage Crops" is in press. Send in your order for it now. We shall do our best to get it to you in time to be helpful in this year's control campaign.

Another important cereal insect pest is the corn earworm. I told you last year, and remind you again that the moths that lay the eggs that hatch into corn earworms that eat the corn of Mississippi valley farmers fly up from the South. If weather conditions are favorable this year more moths may fly into the Corn Belt, because the mild winter weather has let the earworm hibernate farther North than usual. Farmers' Bulletin 1651

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will tell you about this pest.

You wheat growers know that you can't do anything this Spring about Hessian fly infestations. But you will be interested in news of the situation. Hessian fly infestation increased considerably last Fall in New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. The fly is more abundant throughout Indiana and Illinois. In fact, it caused material fall injury in occasional early-sown fields of these States. Heavily infested fields are numerous in southwestern Indiana, and southeastern Illinois. The infestation in western Illinois is considerably heavier than last year. West of the Mississippi the infestation is increasing in Missouri, northeastern Kansas, and southeastern Nebraska. Over the rest of the area, Hessian fly numbers are generally low. Of course, delayed sowing of winter grains is the only way to control the Hessian fly. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1627 gives complete information.

Last summer owners of pastures, lawns, and golf greens in many parts of the country reported serious injury from what they thought was a "new" insect. It wasn't new. It was the sod webworm always present everywhere. It may be that they were so injurious last year because they have concentrated during the recent dry summers in artificially watered areas of grass. At any rate, last year's outbreak was serious and it was widespread. I can't say yet what prospects are for this year. An outbreak may occur, although fortunately a fungus disease has killed off millions of the young overwintering worms. Farmers' Bulletin 1258 will give you more information about these interesting, though destructive insects.

Now, about the corn borer. The borer took severe punishment from the drought of 1930. But it came back last year. In the region around the Eastern Great Lakes its population increased decidedly. The only localities where the increase wasn't heavy were in northeastern Ohio and northwestern Pennsylvania. There the borer population fell off. The borers caused distinct commercial losses in some fields of corn in the northwestern Ohio districts, and to both field corn and sweet corn in the Lake Ontario district in New York. The borer population increased locally in southern Massachusetts and on Long Island. The insects caused commercial loss to sweet corn in both sections.

The present winter has been favorable for hibernating borers. If the 1932 season is also favorable, I have some misgivings about the corn borer situation. The department has issued several bulletins on corn borer control. For general information, ask for Farmers' Bulletin 1548. Methods of control by machinery are explained in Circular 132, Farmers' Bulletins 1589, and Miscellaneous Publications 56 and 69.

I'm going to close now. But I can't go without reminding you that I have discussed today only a few of the hundreds of insect pests of field crops. We have information on dozens of others if you wish or need it. Take the army worm, for instance. It may come without warning -- in fact, it usually does. You have to have the information on its control RIGHT NOW in order to prevent damage once it appears. Farmers' Bulletin 752 gives you the directions for control of the army worm. My suggestion is that you send for it now and have it on hand. Also Farmers' Bulletin 835, which tells how to detect outbreaks of insects and save grain crops.

If you want information on any specific insect of cereal or forage crops, write the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.